

played a key role in softening up the Kremlin regimes to make possible the Soviet Jewry demand to "Let My People Go." For the first time, there was legislation to put teeth into the previous congressional humanitarian resolutions.

From 1976 to 1986, Jacob Birnbaum conducted annual Most Favored Nation campaigns, based on Jackson-Vanik, to pressure Romania to increase emigration and release prisoners. He testified annually before both Senate and House committees.

In the latter 1970s, Mr. Birnbaum enlarged his Soviet Jewry strategy. He expanded the slogan "Let My People Go" by adding "Let My People Know" (their heritage). The Kremlin had pulverized Jewish religious, cultural, and community life, and, in the 1960s, the Soviet Jewish resistance underground began to generate Jewish self-education cultural, religious, and Hebrew-speaking groups. Mr. Birnbaum conducted numerous campaigns for their protection, enlisting the aid of many Christian religious denominations. These efforts reached a high point when he organized and led a delegation of the Synagogue Council of America to meet with the Deputy Secretary of State and the Department's Human Rights Director, Warren Zimmermann, in September, 1985.

Mr. Birnbaum's vision was partially realized with Malcolm Hoenlein's Solidarity Rallies in New York, and, finally, by the great national rally in Washington on December 7, 1987 on the eve of Gorbachev's meeting with President Reagan.

Finally, in 1990, the Kremlin conceded and permitted a mass emigration which now totals two million (one million to Israel and one million elsewhere, mostly to the United States). This was no small accomplishment, and many people played a role in making it happen.

In addition to the courageous work of Mr. Birnbaum, tribute ought to be paid to the pioneers and the national organizations which fought so strenuously for the liberation of Soviet Jews.

The pioneers and the national organizations that Mr. Birnbaum asked me to publicly acknowledge for their support in this noble effort include:

Morris Abram, U.S. human rights commissioner; Dr. Moshe Deeter, the scholar whose research fueled the early movement; Justice Arthur Goldberg; the distinguished theologian Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Heschel; Senator Jacob Javits; NASA scientist Dr. Louis Rosenblum of the Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism; and Elie Wiesel, whose book "The Jews of Silence" was so influential.

Furthermore, Mr. Birnbaum recalls the important roles played by colleagues in the following national organizations:

Agudath Israel of America; Center for Russian Jewry with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, of which he is the founder and national director; Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations; Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, whose founding director was Malcolm Hoenlein; International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, founding chairman Morris Brafman; Senator Jacob Javits; Nehemiah Levanon, Israel Liaison Bureau for Soviet Jewry; the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement; National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Honorable Richard Maass, founding chairman; National Community Relations Advisory Council; Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, founding chairman

Dr. Louis Rosenblum; and Ambassador Dr. Meir Rosenne.

Following the collapse of the Soviet regime, Mr. Birnbaum spent a substantial part of the 1990s in combating anti-Semitic manifestations in former Soviet Central Asia, mostly in Uzbekistan, intervening via the State Department and enlisting Malcolm Hoenlein's aid in engaging the Uzbek Ambassador in Washington.

In his 80th year, Mr. Birnbaum continues to support groups engaged in the Jewish education of former Soviet Jews and their children.

For all of these reasons, the House of Representatives ought to honor the life and six decades of public service of Jacob Birnbaum and especially his commitment to freeing Soviet Jews from religious, cultural, and communal extinction. He is a true hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FREEDOM ACT OF 2006

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the International Women's Freedom Act of 2006. This legislation establishes an Office of International Women's Rights within the State Department headed by the appointed Ambassador at Large, and additionally, would create a United States Commission on International Women's Rights. The positive links between the empowerment of women and effective and sustainable development are very clear and this legislation would seek to protect women's rights by channeling U.S. security and development assistance to countries that are not found in gross violations of women's rights. According to the World Bank, when men and women are equal within a society, not only do the poor move more quickly out of poverty, but economies flourish and familial well-being is enhanced. I believe that all people, regardless of gender, should have the power to shape their lives and participate in their communities without the fear of oppression. When given the tools they need, such as education, access to employment, land, and economic assets, and the opportunity to contribute to civic life, women and girls improve their situation in society and have a positive impact on society as a whole. By annually reviewing the status of women's rights in each country and designating countries of particular concern, more succinct policy recommendations can be made to the President, the Secretary of State and the Congress.

In 1998, Congress created a Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the bill I am proposing today is modeled after it. According to news reports, the Commission on International Religious Freedom has made substantial progress towards expanding religious freedom in Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan. We require the State Department to issue reports on battling international bribery, religious freedom, and narcotics control, among many others. Creating a report on the status of women's rights is vitally important to assuring the rights of women worldwide.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 275th anniversary of Prince William County, Virginia.

Prince William County, Virginia, was created on March 25, 1731, from territory that had been part of Stafford County and King George County. It is named for Prince William Augustus, 1720–1765, Duke of Cumberland, and a son of King George II, who became Captain-General of the British Army.

In 1608, Captain John Smith and his party rode a barge along the Potomac River and stopped in Prince William County on their way from Jamestown. They were the first Europeans recorded in this area. Doeg Indians, Algonquin speakers, lived in villages along the Potomac. The Souian-speaking Manahoac people lived in the Piedmont region. By trading with the native tribes, Captain Smith and his men were able to obtain enough food to sustain themselves and the settlers they had left behind in Jamestown. Native American settlements disappeared from the county by the beginning of the 18th century.

The first English settlement in the Northern Neck of Virginia, the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, took place about 1643 in what is now Northumberland County. The first land patent in what is now Prince William County was taken out in 1653 by Thomas Burbage. After successive divisions, Prince William County reached its current outer boundaries in 1759. Manassas and Manassas Park were established as independent cities in 1975.

Prince William County, located 20 miles southwest of the Nation's Capital, is a perfect place to live, work, play, and raise a family. With a desirable location, highly educated work force, nationally recognized schools, and pro-business environment, Prince William County has it all.

Prince William is the second largest county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Prince William school system is one of the finest in the Nation. It is the State's second largest school system, with Internet access in every classroom. Prince William County offers a highly educated workforce—with more than 50 percent of adults holding a college degree. The county is swiftly becoming a major source of northern Virginia's highly educated labor pool. Prince William County is the new center of business opportunity in Metropolitan Washington.

In 2006, Prince William County will host a year-long celebration with special events to honor this momentous anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the citizens of Prince William County on the occasion of their 275th anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of this great county, and in wishing for its continued prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
"MICK" GILLINS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael "Mick" Gillins for his exemplary service in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, LVMPD.

As a 19-year veteran of the Las Vegas Metro Police, Mick has a long history of admirable service and is a hero in the very essence of the word. In September, 1989, Mick arrested a suspect that had stolen military explosives that were intended to go to gang members. For this, Mick received a "Job Well Done" citation from the LVMPD. In January, 1992, Mick was nominated by the LVMPD for the American Legion Police Post #55 "Outstanding Officer of the Year" award; although he did not win this award, he was given a letter of Commendation from then Sheriff, John Moran.

Mick's dedication and service has affected countless lives; most noticeably on December 27, 1991 when he saved a drowning child's life by administering CPR. When Mick arrived on the scene, the child was clinically dead; but due to Mick's expertise the child was revived and suffered no brain damage. For his heroism, Mick received the "Exemplary Service Award" from the LVMPD, the "Life Saving Award" from Mercy Medical Services, and the "Community Service Award" from the Las Vegas Fire Department.

Recently, Mick was injured in the line of duty. On May 23, 2006, Mick was finishing up a traffic stop when he was struck by a car while sitting on his motorcycle. He sustained a broken left leg and two bulging disks in his lower back. The driver of the car that struck him was charged with driving under the influence, and toxicology reports indicated that she had more prescription drugs in her system than prescribed.

I also worked personally with Mick during my time as a Nevada State Senator. Mick spent a number of sessions at the Legislature for the LVMPD and the PPA, lobbying on behalf of his fellow officers.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Michael "Mick" Gillins. His commitment to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and to the Las Vegas Community has improved countless lives. I applaud his dedication and I wish him a speedy recovery.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE
SHEEHAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Danielle Sheehan of Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Sheehan has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capitol. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Sheehan has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leader-

ship potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Danielle Sheehan, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

WHY CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE A
CLOSER LOOK AT RUSSIA'S WTO
ACCESSION PROCESS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, as Congress leaves for the upcoming November elections, I would like to raise an issue that will gain more attention over the next few months—a U.S.-Russia bilateral agreement on Russia's membership in the World Trade Organization. As someone who is watching the U.S.-Russia WTO negotiations very closely with a keen interest in the outcome, I think it is important to acknowledge the obstacles that remain. While a successful U.S.-Russia WTO agreement can be imagined, the reality of the current situation is that both sides are still apart on key issues. I urge my colleagues to keep a watchful eye on these negotiations, which will have important consequences for U.S. industries, workers and consumers.

Some say Russia has made progress in its actions, commitments and negotiations with the United States over the past year. However, both countries were unable to meet the goal of concluding WTO talks at the July Group of Eight meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. The new goal for the completion of negotiations is when Presidents Bush and Putin meet at the November 2006 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Vietnam.

The United States and the global community will ultimately benefit when Russia becomes a member of the World Trade Organization. Although Russia's economy in a developing stage in many respects, its economic progress since the end of the cold war and potential for growth are positive trends. The complete integration of Russia into the global economy is an important step that will help Russia and its trading partners. It will also help to support the continuation of positive U.S.-Russia relations.

However, at this stage, significant obstacles to Russia's WTO accession remain and must be addressed. Russia's behavior in a number of areas and its lack of concrete commitments on important issues is contrary to the spirit of free trade and the WTO and must be reversed. In essence, the WTO is a set of rules and commitments and a forum for dispute resolution, factors that make it fundamentally different than most international organizations with extended bureaucracies. In this manner, these rules and commitments must be honored if the WTO is to have any meaning whatsoever.

Russia is failing to uphold standards that many in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere believe are essential for WTO accession. The area of intellectual property is a prime example.

Due in large part to Russia's failure to enforce its anti-piracy and intellectual property protection laws, 421-2 of my House col-

leagues joined me in passing a resolution in December 2005 (H. Con. Res. 230) that called on Russia to provide adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, or it risk losing its eligibility to participate in the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program and to ensure that intellectual property is securely protected in law and in practice to demonstrate that it can meet international commitments like the WTO.

Earlier this year, House Ways and Means Chairman BILL THOMAS (R-CA) and Ranking Democratic Member CHARLES RANGEL (D-NY) as well as Senate Finance Committee Chairman CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IA) and Ranking Member MAX BAUCUS (D-MT) co-signed a letter to President Bush stating that they will not support Permanent National Trade Relations for Russia unless Russia takes definitive action to address current issues.

In the energy sector, the Russian government's interference in the market and de facto renationalization of selected assets calls into question its commitment to free and fair trade. The Council on Foreign Relations, task force on Russia listed a number of disappointing trends in Russia's energy market, including "the revocation of longstanding Exxon Mobil licenses for the Sakhalin natural gas fields and the destruction of the Yukos Oil company as part of a reassertion of state control over the energy sector." The report also mentioned the cut off of natural gas supplies to Ukraine in response to its pro-western orientation. With U.S. oil and natural gas prices reaching record highs, it is very important that we develop a tough, but open, energy trade policy with Russia.

The United States remains concerned about access to the Russian banking, financial services and insurance markets, all of which are substantially restricted for foreign companies. The U.S. is advocating on the opening of bank branches, but Russia has repeatedly insisted that foreign banks be required to open a full subsidiary, not a branch, when entering Russia. In the insurance industry, Russia does not allow foreign insurance companies to underwrite and reinsure mandatory forms of insurance, including motor vehicles, health and government institutional insurance. Before Russia passed legislation in late 2003 to expand foreign ownership to 25 percent, the EU had considered the Russian insurance industry essentially closed.

According to the President's 2006 Trade Policy Agenda and 2005 Annual Report, the U.S. remains concerned about market access for poultry, pork and beef in the wake of a June 15, 2005 agreement with Russia. The issue of how the agreement is being implemented, specifically questions that a U.S. quota could be used by other countries, is currently under discussion.

The United States is currently in the midst of its bilateral negotiations with the Russian Federation to agree to Russia's membership and participation in the World Trade Organization. The United States is one of only a few nations remaining that must conclude a bilateral WTO agreement before Russia formally accedes to the WTO.

As this process continues, it is critical that Congress consider Russia beyond specific commercial issues and commitments on trade issues. Congress should consider that Russia's is regressing in its movement towards a more democratic society and free market